



## INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING BLANK.

Give *date* in each case.

State plainly for *what* each building was *occupied*.

Name *power* used, if any.

Give names of owners and occupants.

If *unoccupied*, so state.

State whether *total* or *partial* loss.

State amount of *damage*, *insurance*, and *insurance paid*, separately, on buildings and contents.

State distinctly the *cause* of the fire.

Do not return the cause as "accidental," or "carelessness," but give particulars.

Forest fires should be reported with full information of the cause and amount of loss.

In case of farm buildings, where more than one is involved in the loss, the one in which the fire originated should be designated, as also whether the buildings were connected or not.

The value of these statistics depends largely upon the care taken in the verification of the facts. Town and municipal authorities are urged to investigate carefully, and report fully the circumstances of each fire occurring within their respective limits. The department will welcome any pertinent information or suggestion not specifically called for.

The record books hitherto furnished the several cities and towns are intended to remain permanently in the custody of the city and town authorities, and this blank to be filled from the record therein made.

**If more than one building is burned, name the items of damage, insurance and insurance paid, for each SEPARATELY, stating IN WHICH the fire originated.**

Report of Fire  
Feb. 2, 1886.

To Henry & McMaster Esq

Town Clerk of Southborough

We the subscribers hereby make the following Report in accordance with Chapl 199 of the Acts and Resolves of 1888  
The Saloon building <sup>and personal property therein</sup> of Warren H Stevens  
situate in that part of said Southborough  
called Southwell was burnt April 21<sup>st</sup>  
1888. We have investigated concerning the cause  
and origin thereof and cannot learn anything  
as to the cause of the fire. The owner, Mr  
Stevens, says he went away about seven o'clock  
A M on the day previous to the fire and  
did not return until after the fire. He says  
no fire was left in the building. Building  
was insured for three hundred dollars which  
was probably about the fair value of same.  
Personal Property was valued at \$425.00

Benj F Prentiss } Selectmen

Geo Cantello } of

Dexter Newton } Southborough

Southborough April 26 1888

Report of Fire  
Saloon Building  
Warren Hotel  
Apr. 21, 1881.  
Recorded on page 2  
of Fire Records.

Southboro Sep 28 /88

Selectmen's investigation at Mrs Sarah G Williams  
in regard to Barn and contents owned by her  
which was burned, also House, Toolhouse and  
furniture damaged by fire on Sep 26 /88  
cause of fire unknown

	Losses, or where	Price where	
Value of Barn			\$ 400 00
Damage to House			144 00
" Toolhouse			15 00
Personal property			821 00

Henry C Williams loss by the fire

Personal property

Benj F Prentiss.

72 00  
145 2.00

Selectmen  
Southboro

Selections Peck's  
of business of  
Sarah L. Williams

Page 4

Sept. 26. 1888

Recorded on page 4  
Title Page Book  
Henry C. McMeel  
Tarrant

Paid  
P. Estab. 15.55  
Portugal 10.00  
Damage to Barn 5.00

Statement of property belonging  
to William W Fay destroyed by fire Dec 7/88  
we met at the location where the house was  
burned and damage done to barn and  
made investigation of the cause of the fire  
by examining the premises and statement  
from Mr Fay and others we came to  
the decision it caught from a defect  
in chimney

Value of house	\$2000
Damage to barn	50
Personal property burned	250
	\$2300
Insurance on house	\$1550
Barn	300
Personal	60
	\$1910

Benj F Prentiss { selectmen  
of  
Southboro

Southboro Dec 10/88

Selections report of  
Survey of N. Mayo  
Houke & Co. 1885.

Reorder in book of  
True Records, folio 4  
Henry A. McNamee  
True Clerk.

Date of fire: May 5 1889

Name of owner: Harriet Parker

Name of occupant: Charles G Hawkins

Class of building (wood, stone or brick): Wood

How occupied (dwelling? store, what kind? manufactory,

what kind?): Dwelling house

Value of building, \$ 2,000

Damage to building, \$ All consumed

Insurance upon, \$ 18.00

Insurance paid, \$

Value of contents, \$ 50

Damage to contents, \$ 600

Insurance upon, \$ No insurance

Insurance paid, \$

Total, or partial loss: \$ 2,600

## REMARKS.

Cause and circumstances of fire:

caught from <sup>cinders of</sup> a burning Barn ten rods  
distance owned by Ellen Lepisbie and  
Elizabeth HeronBenj F Prentiss  
Chs of Board Selectmen  
Southboro

Report of Fire  
May 5, 1889.

# COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

## INSURANCE DEPARTMENT.

Boston, May 21, 1888.

To the City and Town Clerks:

This Department is desirous of aiding, so far as in its power, the careful observance of the provisions of the Act of 1888 in relation to Returns and Statistics of Fires.

For the convenience therefore, alike of the fire engineers and selectmen whose duty it is under the new law to make returns of fires to the city and town clerks, and of the latter officials, the department has prepared the annexed blank for this purpose.

In case of extensive fires, these blanks, if found insufficient, can be supplemented by additional sheets; and of course there is no obligation for their use at all if the officials prefer otherwise, but their preparation has been suggested by several of these officers and they are provided from a wish to assist in conveniently carrying out the provisions of the statute, which is given below.

Respectfully yours,

GEO. S. MERRILL, Insurance Commissioner.

[CHAP. 199, ACTS AND RESOLVES OF 1888.]

SECT. 1. Section one of chapter two hundred and sixteen of the Public Statutes is hereby amended so as to read as follows:—When property is destroyed by fire, it shall be the duty of the board of fire engineers in cities other than the city of Boston, and in towns having a board of fire engineers, and of the board of selectmen in towns having no board of fire engineers, to make investigation of the cause, circumstances and origin thereof, especially to examine whether it was the result of carelessness or design. Such investigation shall be commenced within two days of the occurrence of the fire, not including the Lord's day. They shall present a written statement to the city or town clerk for careful record by him in a book provided by the insurance commissioner, of all the facts relating to the cause, kind of property, amount of value destroyed, ownership, and such other particulars as may be called for in the form provided, and any other facts which to them seem pertinent; and such record shall be made within two weeks of the occurrence of the fire. The book of record shall be kept in the office of the clerk of the city or town, and it shall be his duty to make transcript of such fire record for the year preceding, upon a blank form provided by the insurance commissioner, and forward same to the insurance department within fifteen days from the first day of January in each year. Whenever, from the investigation aforesaid, there appear reasonable grounds for believing the fire was caused by design, the chief of the board of fire engineers of the city or of the town having such board of fire engineers, or the chairman of the board of selectmen of the town having no such board of fire engineers, shall apply to a police, district or municipal court, or trial justice, for a jury of inquest; and such court or justice shall forthwith issue a warrant to a constable of such city or town, requiring him forthwith to summon six good and lawful men of the county to appear before the court or justice, at a time and place expressed in the warrant, to inquire when and by what means the fire originated. Any of the herein named city or town officials neglecting or refusing to comply with any of the requirements of this act, shall be punished by FINE OF NOT LESS THAN TWENTY-FIVE NOR MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS.

SECT. 2. Section seven of said chapter two hundred and sixteen is hereby amended by striking out the words "or in the county of Suffolk with the clerk of the municipal court of the city of Boston."

SECT. 3. Sections ten and eleven of chapter thirty-five of the Public Statutes are hereby repealed.

SECT. 4. This act shall take effect upon its passage. [Approved April 9, 1888.]

Date of fire: *May 5 1889*

Name of owner: *Ellen Christie & Eliza Latheron*

Name of occupant: *John O'Brien*

Class of building (wood, stone or brick): *Wood*

How occupied (dwelling? store, what kind? manufactory,  
what kind?): *Barn*

Value of building, \$ *125,00*

Damage to building, \$ *All consumed*

Insurance upon, \$ *No Insurance*

Insurance paid, \$

Value of contents, \$ *125,00*

Damage to contents, \$ *All consumed*

Insurance upon, \$ *No Insurance*

Insurance paid, \$

Total, or partial loss: *250,00*

## REMARKS.

Cause and circumstances of fire:

*The Barn was discovered on fire at 12 M<sup>o</sup>  
cause unknown*

*Benj F. Prentiss  
Chr of Board Selectmen  
Southboro*

1888

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.  
INSURANCE DEPARTMENT.

Boston, May 21, 1888.

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To H. Weston Mc Weston Town Clerk of Scititrough, Ma

Date of fire: January 18 1890

Name of owner: William Damon

Name of occupant: William Damon

Class of building (wood, stone or brick): Wood

How occupied (dwelling? store, what kind? manufactory, <sup>House</sup> House, Building, during day or evening what kind?):

REMARKS.

Cause and circumstances of fire:

Cause unknown

Owner says no fire was in Building during day or evening previous to fire

Value of building, \$ 1500 - as estimated by owner on Building

Damage to building, \$ Total loss,

Insurance upon, \$ On Building

Insurance paid, \$ Not paid

Value of contents, \$ 500 - as stated by owner

Damage to contents, \$ 500 -

Insurance upon, \$ 300 -

Insurance paid, \$ None

Total, or partial loss: Total

Samuel Parker } Selectmen  
Dexter Weston } of  
Scititrough

Scititrough January 27 1890

*Fire Inquest*  
**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.**  
**INSURANCE DEPARTMENT. 1890.**

Boston, May 21, 1888.

To the City and Town Clerks:

This Department is desirous of aiding, so far as in its power, the careful observance of the provisions of the Act of 1888 in relation to Returns and Statistics of Fires.

For the convenience therefore, alike of the fire engineers and selectmen whose duty it is under the new law to make returns of fires to the city and town clerks, and of the latter officials, the department has prepared the annexed blank for this purpose.

In case of extensive fires, these blanks, if found insufficient, can be supplemented by additional sheets; and of course there is no obligation for their use at all if the officials prefer otherwise, but their preparation has been suggested by several of these officers and they are provided from a wish to assist in conveniently carrying out the provisions of the statute, which is given below.

Respectfully yours,

**GEO. S. MERRILL, Insurance Commissioner.**

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SECT. 3. Sections ten and eleven of chapter thirty-five of the Public Statutes are hereby repealed.

SECT. 4. This act shall take effect upon its passage. [Approved April 9, 1888.]

Date of fire: December 23<sup>d</sup> 1890  
 Name of owner: Oliver La Logue  
 Name of occupant: Not occupied  
 Class of building (wood, stone or brick): Wood  
 How occupied (dwelling? store, what kind? manufactory,  
 what kind?): Dwelling

Value of building, \$ 1000  
 Damage to building, \$ 475  
 Insurance upon, \$ 17.00  
 Insurance paid, \$ 36.00  
 Value of contents, \$ 200  
 Damage to contents, \$ 50  
 Insurance upon, \$ 6.00  
 Insurance paid, \$ 3.67  
 Total, or partial loss: Partial Loss

## REMARKS.

## Cause and circumstances of fire:

House had been unoccupied  
 about six weeks  
 Owner was in it for about  
 two hours in the morning  
 before the fire -  
 It is decided it best to have  
 an inquest and one was held  
 on Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> but no cause found  
 for thinking it caused by  
 design

The above is as near corner  
 as I can get it

Emmanuel & Draker } Selection  
 of  
 John J. O'Brien } Boston

Selectmen's report  
of inquest, in re  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.  
Chair La Roque  
INSURANCE DEPARTMENT.

To the City and Town Clerks: Dec. 23. 1890,

This Department is desirous of aiding, so far as in its power, the careful observance of the provisions of the law in relation to Returns and Statistics of Fires.

For the convenience, therefore, alike of the fire engineers and selectmen whose duty it is under the new law to make returns of fires to the city and town clerks, and of the latter officials, the department has prepared the annexed blank for this purpose.

[CHAP. 451, ACTS OF 1889.]

SECT. 1. The board of fire engineers in every city, except the city of Boston, and in every town in which a board of fire engineers is established, and the board of selectmen in any town in which no board of fire engineers is established, shall make investigation of the cause, origin and circumstances of every fire occurring in such city or town in which property has been destroyed, and shall especially make investigation as to whether such fire was the result of carelessness or design. Such investigation shall be begun within two days, not including the Lord's day, of the occurrence of such fire. The board making the investigation shall within two weeks of the occurrence of the fire furnish to the clerk of the city or town, as the case may be, for careful record by him in a book to be provided by the insurance commissioner, a written statement of all the facts relating to the cause and origin of the fire, the kind, value and ownership of the property destroyed and such other information as may be called for by the blanks provided by the commissioner. Such book of record shall be kept by the clerk in his office, and he shall make returns or a transcript therefrom of the record of each year upon blank forms to be provided by the commissioner and shall forward the same to him within fifteen days from the first day of January.

SECT. 2. Whenever from any such investigation there appears to the board making the same reasonable grounds for believing that the fire was caused by design, such board shall cause application to be made to a police, district or municipal court or to a trial justice of the county in which such city or town is situated for an inquest to be held to make inquiry relative to such fire. The court or trial justice shall thereupon hold such inquest and take the testimony on oath of all persons supposed to be cognizant of any facts or to have means of knowledge in relation to the matters herein required to be examined and inquired into, and shall cause such testimony to be reduced to writing, verified and transmitted to the district attorney of the court for his action; and shall also report in writing to the owners of property or other persons interested in the matter under inquiry any facts and circumstances ascertained by such inquest, which shall in the opinion of the court or justice require their attention.

SECT. 3. The court or justice when of the opinion that there is evidence sufficient to charge any person with the crime of arson, shall cause such person to be arrested and charged with such offence, and shall likewise furnish to the district attorney all the evidences of guilt, with the names of witnesses, and all the information obtained by him in addition to the testimony in the case.

SECT. 4. The court or justice may issue subpoenas for witnesses returnable before such court or justice; and the persons served with such process shall be allowed the same fees, their attendance may be enforced in the same manner, and they shall be subject to the same penalties, as if served with a subpoena in behalf of the Commonwealth in a criminal prosecution pending before such court or trial justice.

SECT. 5. The district attorney or some person designated by him may attend any inquest and examine witnesses, and the inquest may in the discretion of the court or justice be made private, and any persons other than those required to be present by the provisions of this act may be excluded from the place where such inquest is held, and witnesses may be kept separate and apart from each other and not allowed to communicate with each other until they have been examined.

SECT. 6. The fees and expenses of the inquest shall be returned to the mayor and aldermen of the city or selectmen of the town in which the property was destroyed, and when audited and certified by them shall be paid by such city or town.

SECT. 7. Any officer neglecting or refusing to comply with any of the requirements of this act shall be punished by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than two hundred dollars.

SECT. 8. Chapter two hundred and sixteen of the Public Statutes and chapter one hundred and ninety-nine of the acts of the year eighteen hundred and eighty-eight are hereby repealed. [Approved June 7, 1889.]

## Report on Fire in House of O. Rock. Fayville

Date of fire: December 23<sup>d</sup> 1890

Name of owner: Oliver Rock

Name of occupant: Not Occupied

Class of building (wood, stone or brick): Wood

How occupied (dwelling? store, what kind? manufactory,

what kind?): Dwelling Unoccupied

Value of building, \$ 2000

Damage to building, \$ 36.75

Insurance upon, \$ 1100

Insurance paid, \$ 36.75

Value of contents, \$ 900

Damage to contents, \$ 580

Insurance upon, \$ 600

Insurance paid, \$ 580

Total, or partial loss: Partial

## REMARKS.

Cause and circumstances of fire:

Cause unknown fire caught  
in some matrasses in the  
basement or cellar-Have applied to district  
court to have an inquest  
held to determine if  
possible the origin of  
the fire

An Inquest  
in 1889  
COMMONWEALTH, OF MASSACHUSETTS.

INSURANCE DEPARTMENT.

To the City and Town Clerks:

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[CHAP. 451, ACTS OF 1889.]

SECT. 1. The board of fire engineers in every city, except the city of Boston, and in every town in which a board of fire engineers is established, and the board of selectmen in any town in which no board of fire engineers is established, shall make investigation of the cause, origin and circumstances of every fire occurring in such city or town in which property has been destroyed, and shall especially make investigation as to whether such fire was the result of carelessness or design. Such investigation shall be begun within two days, not including the Lord's day, of the occurrence of such fire. The board making the investigation shall within two weeks of the occurrence of the fire furnish to the clerk of the city or town, as the case may be, for careful record by him in a book to be provided by the insurance commissioner, a written statement of all the facts relating to the cause and origin of the fire, the kind, value and ownership of the property destroyed and such other information as may be called for by the blanks provided by the commissioner. Such book of record shall be kept by the clerk in his office, and he shall make returns or a transcript therefrom of the record of each year upon blank forms to be provided by the commissioner and shall forward the same to him within fifteen days from the first day of January.

SECT. 2. Whenever from any such investigation there appears to the board making the same reasonable grounds for believing that the fire was caused by design, such board shall cause application to be made to a police, district or municipal court or to a trial justice of the county in which such city or town is situated for an inquest to be held to make inquiry relative to such fire. The court or trial justice shall thereupon hold such inquest and take the testimony on oath of all persons supposed to be cognizant of any facts or to have means of knowledge in relation to the matters herein required to be examined and inquired into, and shall cause such testimony to be reduced to writing, verified and transmitted to the district attorney of the court for his action; and shall also report in writing to the owners of property or other persons interested in the matter under inquiry any facts and circumstances ascertained by such inquest, which shall in the opinion of the court or justice require their attention.

SECT. 3. The court or justice when of the opinion that there is evidence sufficient to charge any person with the crime of arson, shall cause such person to be arrested and charged with such offence, and shall likewise furnish to the district attorney all the evidences of guilt, with the names of witnesses, and all the information obtained by him in addition to the testimony in the case.

SECT. 4. The court or justice may issue subpoenas for witnesses returnable before such court or justice; and the persons served with such process shall be allowed the same fees, their attendance may be enforced in the same manner, and they shall be subject to the same penalties, as if served with a subpoena in behalf of the Commonwealth in a criminal prosecution pending before such court or trial justice.

SECT. 5. The district attorney or some person designated by him may attend any inquest and examine witnesses, and the inquest may in the discretion of the court or justice be made private, and any persons other than those required to be present by the provisions of this act may be excluded from the place where such inquest is held, and witnesses may be kept separate and apart from each other and not allowed to communicate with each other until they have been examined.

SECT. 6. The fees and expenses of the inquest shall be returned to the mayor and aldermen of the city or selectmen of the town in which the property was destroyed, and when audited and certified by them shall be paid by such city or town.

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Date of fire: May 10<sup>th</sup> 1891

Name of owner: Moses Fay Frank Fay - Hyde

Name of occupant: ~~Aug~~ David Hitchcock

Class of building (wood, stone or brick): Sprout Land

How occupied (dwelling? store, what kind? manufactory, etc.)  
what kind?): Wool Land

Value of building, \$

Damage to building, \$

Insurance upon, \$

Insurance paid, \$

Value of contents, \$

Damage to contents, \$

Insurance upon, \$

Insurance paid, \$

Total, or partial loss:

About \$300

—

—

partial

## REMARKS.

Cause and circumstances of fire:

This fire started Sunday  
May 10, about 3 o'clock P.M.  
and burned until Monday  
Morning at 10 AM May  
11<sup>th</sup>.The fire is supposed to have been  
caused by Boys trying to  
smoke out Squirrels.

*Fire Inquest*  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.  
INSURANCE DEPARTMENT. 1891.

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SECT. 5. The district attorney or some person designated by him may attend any inquest and examine witnesses, and the inquest may in the discretion of the court or justice be made private, and any persons other than those required to be present by the provisions of this act may be excluded from the place where such inquest is held, and witnesses may be kept separate and apart from each other and not allowed to communicate with each other until they have been examined.

SECT. 6. The fees and expenses of the inquest shall be returned to the mayor and aldermen of the city or selectmen of the town in which the property was destroyed, and when audited and certified by them shall be paid by such city or town.

SECT. 7. Any officer neglecting or refusing to comply with any of the requirements of this act shall be punished by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than two hundred dollars.

SECT. 8. Chapter two hundred and sixteen of the Public Statutes and chapter one hundred and ninety-nine of the acts of the year eighteen hundred and eighty-eight are hereby repealed. [Approved June 7, 1889.]

Schedule of all the Fires which occurred in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ during the year ending Dec. 31, 1890.

Returned to the Insurance Commissioner in accordance with the Provisions of Chapter 451, Acts of 1889.

**SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON BACK.**

DATE OF FIRE.	Class of Buildings: Wood, Brick or Stone.	How occupied: Dwelling, Store, what kind? Manufactory, what kind?	NAME OF OWNER.	NAME OF OCCUPANT(S)	BUILDING.				CONTENTS.				Total or Partial Loss.	CAUSE OF FIRE. (Do not say "accidental" or "carelessness.")	REMARKS.
					Value of.	Damage to.	Insurance upon.	Insurance paid.	Value of.	Damage to.	Insurance upon.	Insurance paid.			
1890 Dec 28 <sup>th</sup>	wood	Barn	Susan M. Stone	Edwin J. Stone L. L. Hodge	\$1013.	Total loss	\$1,000		535	Total loss	\$400			unknown	Insurance unpaid to date
June 17 <sup>th</sup>	wood	Dwelling	Joseph Goodman	none	1500	Total loss	1,000	1,000						unknown	

See chapter 451, Acts of 1889, on back of this blank.

On or before January Fourteenth.

Town Clerk  
of \_\_\_\_\_

**THIS BLANK MUST BE FILLED AND RETURNED**

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING BLANK.

Give date in each case.

State plainly for what each building was occupied.

Name power used, if any.

Give names of owners and occupants.

If unoccupied, so state.

State whether total or partial loss.

State amount of damage, insurance, and insurance paid, separately, on buildings and contents.

State distinctly the cause of the fire.

Do not return the cause as "ACCIDENTAL," or "CARELESSNESS," but give particulars.

Forest fires should be reported with full information of the cause and amount of loss.

In case of farm buildings, where more than one is involved in the loss, the one in which the fire originated should be designated, as also whether the buildings were connected or not.

The value of these statistics depends largely upon the care taken in the verification of the facts. The department will welcome any pertinent information or suggestion not specifically called for.

The record books hitherto furnished the several cities and towns are to remain permanently in the custody of the city and town authorities, and this blank to be filled from the record therein made.

**If more than one building is burned, name the items of damage, insurance and insurance paid, for each SEPARATELY, stating IN WHICH the fire originated.**

[CHAP. 451, ACTS OF 1889.]

### AN ACT

#### IN RELATION TO FIRE INQUESTS.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. The board of five engineers in every city, except the city of Boston, and in every town in which a board of fire engineers is established, and the board of selectmen in any town in which no board of fire engineers is established, shall make an investigation of the cause, origin and circumstances of every fire occurring in such city or town in which property has been destroyed, and shall especially make investigation as to whether such fire was the result of carelessness or design. Such investigation shall be begun within two days, not including the Lord's day, of the occurrence of such fire. The board making the investigation shall within two weeks of the occurrence of the fire furnish to the clerk of the city or town, as the case may be, for careful record by him in a book to be provided by the insurance commissioner, a written statement of all the facts relating to the cause and origin of the fire, the kind, the value and ownership of the property destroyed and such other information as may be called for by the blanks provided by the commissioner. Such book of record shall be kept by the clerk in his office, and he shall make returns or a transcript therefrom of the record of each year upon blank forms to be provided by the commissioner and shall forward the same to him within fifteen days from the first day of January.

SECT. 2. Whenever from any such investigation there appears to the board making the same reasonable grounds for believing that the fire was caused by design, such board shall cause application to be made to a police, district or municipal court or to a trial justice of the county in which such city or town is situated for an inquest to be held to make inquiry relative to such fire. The court or trial justice shall thereupon hold such inquest and take the testimony on oath of all persons supposed to be cognizant of any facts or to have means of knowledge in relation to the matters herein required to be examined and inquired into, and shall cause such testimony to be reduced to writing, verified and transmitted to the district attorney of the court for his action; and shall also report in writing to the owners of property or other persons interested in the matter under inquiry any facts and circumstances ascertained by such inquest, which shall in the opinion of the court or justice require their attention.

SECT. 3. The court or justice when of the opinion that there is evidence sufficient to charge any person with the crime of arson, shall cause such person to be arrested and charged with such offence, and shall likewise furnish to the district attorney all the evidences of guilt, with the names of witnesses, and all the information obtained by him in addition to the testimony in the case.

SECT. 4. The court or justice may issue subpoenas for witnesses returnable before such court or justice; and the persons served with such process shall be allowed the same fees, their attendance may be enforced in the same manner, and they shall be subject to the same penalties, as if served with a subpoena in behalf of the Commonwealth in a criminal prosecution pending before such court or trial justice.

SECT. 5. The district attorney or some person designated by him may attend any inquest and examine witnesses, and the inquest may in the discretion of the court or justice be made private, and any persons other than those required to be present by the provisions of this act may be excluded from the place where such inquest is held, and witnesses may be kept separate and apart from each other and not allowed to communicate with each other until they have been examined.

SECT. 6. The fees and expenses of the inquest shall be returned to the mayor and aldermen of the city or selectmen of the town in which the property was destroyed, and when audited and certified by them shall be paid by such city or town.

SECT. 7. Any officer neglecting or refusing to comply with any of the requirements of this act shall be punished by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than two hundred dollars.

SECT. 8. Chapter two hundred and sixteen of the Public Statutes and chapter one hundred and ninety-nine of the acts of the year eighteen-hundred-and-eighty-eight are hereby repealed.

[Approved June 7, 1889.]

#### INQUESTS WERE HELD AS FOLLOWS:

DATE OF FIRE.

OWNER OR OCCUPANT.

RESULT.

Date of fire: Jan 4<sup>th</sup> 1894.  
 Name of owner: Mrs. S. N. Rice.  
 Name of occupant: "  
 Class of building (wood, stone or brick): Wood  
 How occupied (dwelling? store, what kind? manufactory,  
 what kind?): Gristmill

## REMARKS.

Cause and circumstances of fire:

Caught fire from stove  
as supposed

Value of building,	\$	2000.
Damage to building,	\$	
Insurance upon,	\$	No Insurance
<del>Insurance paid,</del>	\$	
Value of contents,	\$	Machinery & Grain & etc
Damage to contents,	\$	3000.
<del>Insurance upon,</del>	\$	
<del>Insurance paid,</del>	\$	
Total, or partial loss:		Total

1294

# COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

## INSURANCE DEPARTMENT.

*To the City and Town Clerks :*

*This Department is desirous of aiding, so far as in its power, the careful observance of the provisions of the law in relation to Returns and Statistics of Fires.*

*For the convenience, therefore, alike of the fire engineers and selectmen whose duty it is under the new law to make returns of fires to the city and town clerks, and of the latter officials, the department has prepared the annexed blank for this purpose.*

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[CHAP. 451, ACTS OF 1889.]

SECT. 1. The board of fire engineers in every city, except the city of Boston, and in every town in which a board of fire engineers is established, and the board of selectmen in any town in which no board of fire engineers is established, shall make investigation of the cause, origin and circumstances of every fire occurring in such city or town in which property has been destroyed, and shall especially make investigation as to whether such fire was the result of carelessness or design. Such investigation shall be begun within two days, not including the Lord's day, of the occurrence of such fire. The board making the investigation shall within two weeks of the occurrence of the fire furnish to the clerk of the city or town, as the case may be, for careful record by him in a book to be provided by the insurance commissioner, a written statement of all the facts relating to the cause and origin of the fire, the kind, value and ownership of the property destroyed and such other information as may be called for by the blanks provided by the commissioner. Such book of record shall be kept by the clerk in his office, and he shall make returns or a transcript therefrom of the record of each year upon blank forms to be provided by the commissioner and shall forward the same to him within fifteen days from the first day of January.

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SECT. 3. The court or justice when of the opinion that there is evidence sufficient to charge any person with the crime of arson, shall cause such person to be arrested and charged with such offence, and shall likewise furnish to the district attorney all the evidences of guilt, with the names of witnesses, and all the information obtained by him in addition to the testimony in the case.

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Date of fire: Jan 19<sup>th</sup> 1893

Name of owner: D. F. Mahoney

Name of occupant: G. A. Joslyn

Class of building (wood, stone or brick): Wood

How occupied (dwelling? store, what kind? manufactory,  
what kind?): Tin Shop

Value of building, \$ 200.00

Damage to building, \$ 8,00

Insurance upon, \$ 200.00

Insurance paid, \$

Value of contents, \$ 350.00

Damage to contents, \$ Slight

Insurance upon, \$ None

Insurance paid, \$ "

Total, or partial loss: Partial

## REMARKS.

Cause and circumstances of fire:

Caused by aker in a wooden box

D. T. Mahoney.  
Jan 19/93,

1893

# COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

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Date of fire:

March 26, 1893

## REMARKS.

Name of owner:

Isaac Paradise

Cause and circumstances of fire:

Name of occupant:

-

Class of building (wood, stone or brick):

Wood

How occupied (dwelling? store, what kind? manufactory,

what kind?):

Dwelling

Continental Insurance Co

New York

Value of building, \$8,000

Damage to building, \$1,000

Insurance upon, \$ 600

Insurance paid, \$

Value of contents, \$ 800

Damage to contents, \$ 300

Insurance upon, \$ 200

Insurance paid, \$

Total, or partial loss: \$1,800

Isaac Parades  
Nth. 26/93

# COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

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Date of fire: Feb 22nd 1893

Name of owner: Mathews Knight &amp; Green

Name of occupant: Mathew Knight &amp; Green

Class of building (wood, stone or brick): Wood

How occupied (dwelling? store, what kind? manufactory,

what kind?): Barn, Corncrib, Haybarn

Value of building, \$ 700

Damage to building, \$ 679

Insurance upon, \$ 874 0

Insurance paid, \$ 679

Value of contents, \$ 1300

Damage to contents, \$ 400

Insurance upon, \$ 8900

Insurance paid, \$ 400

Total, or partial loss: Nearly total loss on building

Partial loss on contents

## REMARKS.

Cause and circumstances of fire:

Cause of fire unknown  
 The fire occurred between eight and nine o'clock in the evening.  
 There was no lantern in the barn in the evening and the barn had been locked for two hours

*Knight & Green*  
*Apr. 22/93*

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

INSURANCE DEPARTMENT.

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Date of fire: *October 9<sup>th</sup> 1893*  
 Name of owner: *Timothy Shay (Heirs of)*  
 Name of occupant: *Wait*  
 Class of building (wood, stone or brick): *Wood*  
 How occupied (dwelling? store, what kind? manufactory,  
 what kind?): *Dwelling*

REMARKS.  
 Cause and circumstances of fire:  
*Caught from chimney*

Value of building,	\$ 4 50,
Damage to building,	\$
Insurance upon,	\$ 4 50.
Insurance paid,	\$ 4 00.
Value of contents,	\$ <i>Contents saved</i>
Damage to contents,	\$
Insurance upon,	\$
Insurance paid,	\$
Total, or partial loss:	<i>Total</i>

*Heirs of  
Timothy Shay*  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.  
*Oct. 9/93*  
INSURANCE DEPARTMENT.

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[CHAP. 451, ACTS OF 1889.]

15

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Date of fire: April 10<sup>th</sup> 1894  
 Name of owner: Gordon W. Walker  
 Name of occupant: "  
 Class of building (wood, stone or brick): Wood  
 How occupied (dwelling? store, what kind? manufactory,  
 what kind?): Blanket Mill

## REMARKS.

Cause and circumstances of fire: Not fully ascertained but supposed to arise and  
 Stone & wood matches or defective  
 chimney

Value of building, \$	20.00.	X
Damage to building, \$	59.50	
Insurance upon, \$	16.00.	
Insurance paid, \$	59.50	
Value of contents, \$	20.00.	X
Damage to contents, \$	50.30	
Insurance upon, \$	20.50.	
Insurance paid, \$	50.30	
Total, or partial loss:		

1894

# COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

## INSURANCE DEPARTMENT.

*To the City and Town Clerks:*

*This Department is desirous of aiding, so far as in its power, the careful observance of the provisions of the law in relation to Returns and Statistics of Fires.*

*For the convenience, therefore, alike of the fire engineers and selectmen whose duty it is under the new law to make returns of fires to the city and town clerks, and of the latter officials, the department has prepared the annexed blank for this purpose.*

[CHAP. 451, ACTS OF 1889.]

SECT. 1. The board of fire engineers in every city, except the city of Boston, and in every town in which a board of fire engineers is established, and the board of selectmen in any town in which no board of fire engineers is established, shall make investigation of the cause, origin and circumstances of every fire occurring in such city or town in which property has been destroyed, and shall especially make investigation as to whether such fire was the result of carelessness or design. Such investigation shall be begun within two days, not including the Lord's day, of the occurrence of such fire. The board making the investigation shall within two weeks of the occurrence of the fire furnish to the clerk of the city or town, as the case may be, for careful record by him in a book to be provided by the insurance commissioner, a written statement of all the facts relating to the cause and origin of the fire, the kind, value and ownership of the property destroyed and such other information as may be called for by the blanks provided by the commissioner. Such book of record shall be kept by the clerk in his office, and he shall make returns or a transcript therefrom of the record of each year upon blank forms to be provided by the commissioner and shall forward the same to him within fifteen days from the first day of January.

SECT. 2. Whenever from any such investigation there appears to the board making the same reasonable grounds for believing that the fire was caused by design, such board shall cause application to be made to a police, district or municipal court or to a trial justice of the county in which such city or town is situated for an inquest to be held to make inquiry relative to such fire. The court or trial justice shall thereupon hold such inquest and take the testimony on oath of all persons supposed to be cognizant of any facts or to have means of knowledge in relation to the matters herein required to be examined and inquired into, and shall cause such testimony to be reduced to writing, verified and transmitted to the district attorney of the court for his action; and shall also report in writing to the owners of property or other persons interested in the matter under inquiry any facts and circumstances ascertained by such inquest, which shall in the opinion of the court or justice require their attention.

SECT. 3. The court or justice when of the opinion that there is evidence sufficient to charge any person with the crime of arson, shall cause such person to be arrested and charged with such offence, and shall likewise furnish to the district attorney all the evidences of guilt, with the names of witnesses, and all the information obtained by him in addition to the testimony in the case.

SECT. 4. The court or justice may issue subpoenas for witnesses returnable before such court or justice; and the persons served with such process shall be allowed the same fees, their attendance may be enforced in the same manner, and they shall be subject to the same penalties, as if served with a subpoena in behalf of the Commonwealth in a criminal prosecution pending before such court or trial justice.

SECT. 5. The district attorney or some person designated by him may attend any inquest and examine witnesses, and the inquest may in the discretion of the court or justice be made private, and any persons other than those required to be present by the provisions of this act may be excluded from the place where such inquest is held, and witnesses may be kept separate and apart from each other and not allowed to communicate with each other until they have been examined.

SECT. 6. The fees and expenses of the inquest shall be returned to the mayor and aldermen of the city or selectmen of the town in which the property was destroyed, and when audited and certified by them shall be paid by such city or town.

SECT. 7. Any officer neglecting or refusing to comply with any of the requirements of this act shall be punished by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than two hundred dollars.

SECT. 8. Chapter two hundred and sixteen of the Public Statutes and chapter one hundred and ninety-nine of the acts of the year eighteen hundred and eighty-eight are hereby repealed. [Approved June 7, 1889.]

Date of fire: 27 May 1894

## REMARKS.

Name of owner: Goodrich Woolen Co.

Cause and circumstances of fire:

Name of occupant: " " "

Class of building (wood, stone or brick): Wood

How occupied (dwelling? store, what kind? manufactory,  
what kind?): Store

Value of building, \$ 800

Damage to building, \$ Total loss

Insurance upon, \$ None

Insurance paid, \$ 0

Value of contents, \$ 400

Damage to contents, \$ Total loss

Insurance upon, \$ None

Insurance paid, \$ 0

Total, or partial loss:

D. C. Nichols

Henry Robinson

Selectmen of Southboro

1874

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Date of fire:

14 July 1894

Name of owner: Frederick A. Don

Name of occupant: " "

Class of building (wood, stone or brick): Wood

How occupied (dwelling? store, what kind? manufactory,  
what kind?): Dwelling & Barn

Value of building, \$ 3000,

Damage to building, \$ Total Loss

Insurance upon, \$ 2300.

Insurance paid, \$ 2300

Value of contents, \$ 1000,

Damage to contents, \$ 600

Insurance upon, \$ 600,

Insurance paid, \$ 500

Total, or partial loss:

## REMARKS.

Cause and circumstances of fire:

Incendiary

C. H. Dennison  
H. C. Nichols  
Selection  
of  
Southover

1894

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Date of fire: 15<sup>th</sup> July 1894  
 Name of owner: Cordaville Woolen Co  
 Name of occupant: Cordaville Woolen Co  
 Class of building (wood, stone or brick): Wood  
 How occupied (dwelling? store, what kind? manufactory,  
 what kind?): Store House

Value of building, \$	572.37
Damage to building, \$	Total Loss
Insurance upon, \$	572.37.
Insurance paid, \$	572.37.
Value of contents, \$	6.265.38.
Damage to contents, \$	Total Loss
Insurance upon, \$	6.300.
Insurance paid, \$	6.265.38.
Total, or partial loss:	Total Loss.

## REMARKS.

Cause and circumstances of fire:

No doubt but what it was  
set on fire

J. H. Robinson  
 Dr. Nichols  
 L. W. Demison } Selectmen  
 of  
 South Paris

1894

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